MESSAGE

OF

HENRY LLOYD,

GOVERNOR OF MARYLAND,

TO THE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY,

At its Regular Session, January, 1888.

ANNAPOLIS:
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MESSAGE.

Gentlemen of the Senate and House of Delegates:

Article II, Section 19, of the Constitution requires the Governor to inform the Legislature as to the condition of the State and to recommend to their consideration such measures as he may judge necessary and expedient. I have the honor to submit the following information and recommendations:

The report of the Comptroller shows the condition of the Treasury for the year ending September 30th, 1886:

Total receipts from all sources	$1,994,278 77
Balance in Treasury September 30th, 1885	747,407 33
Total	$2,741,686 10
Disbursements for the fiscal year	2,125,109 76
Balance in Treasury September 30th, 1886	$ 616,576 34
Total receipts for the year ending September 30th, 1887	$2,440,363 53
Balance in Treasury September 30th, 1886	616,576 34
Total	$3,056,939 87
Disbursements for the fiscal year	$2,374,916 67
Balance in the Treasury September 30th, 1887	$ 682,023 20

The ordinary expenses of the State Government have not been in excess of those of former years. I do not think it necessary to give the receipts and disbursements of the treasury for the past two years, except in aggregates. The Comptroller's report, which will be submitted to you, and from which I obtain the figures already stated, will supply all details necessary for your guidance. It is right, however, to say that, in the receipts given, the proceeds of exchanged bonds are included; and in the disbursements are included the sums carried to the respective sinking funds for the final redemption of the debts for which a tax has

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been laid. In the preservation and building up of the sinking funds the treasury officials have literally and faithfully obeyed the requirements of existing laws. The sinking funds referred to now contain not only the amounts which, under the laws applicable to them they ought to contain, but also a surplus amounting to about $250,000.

The gross debt of the State is		$10,960,535 56
As an offset to this debt the State holds the following bonds and stocks, on which interest or dividends are promptly paid, to wit:		
Preferred Stock in the B. & O. R. R. Co.	$ 968,615 70	
Stock in Washington Branch B. & O. R. R. Co.	550,000 00	
Stock in Farmers National Bank, Annapolis	46,470 00	
Stock in Annapolis Water Co	30,000 00	
Bonds of Northern Central R. R. Co. (Mortgage.)	1,500,000 00	
Bonds Columbia and Port Deposit R. R. Co.	60,000 00	
Stock and Bonds to the credit of the Sinking Funds	2,144,215 90	
		$5,299,301 60
Net present debt after deducting productive assets above given		$5,661,233 96
Net debt of the State September 30th, 1885		6,391,563 97
The difference between the present debt and that of two years ago shows a decrease in the debt of		$730,330 01

And also shows the corresponding amount of increase to the sinking fund within the same period.

There are but five debts for which a tax, aggregating 8¾ cents on the hundred dollars, is provided, to wit:

The Defence and Redemption Loan, for which a tax of 5½ cents on the hundred dollars is imposed, amounting to	$3,000,000 00
The Exchange Loan (a part), for which a tax of ¼ of 1 cent is imposed, amounting to	100,000 00
The Maryland Hospital Loan, for which a tax of 1 cent is imposed, amounting to	465,000 00
The Deaf and Dumb Loan, for which a tax of ½ of 1 cent is imposed, amounting to	125,000 00
The Treasury Relief Loan, for which a tax of 1½ cents is imposed, amounting to	500,000 00
Making a total of	$4,190,000 00

The interest on the remaining portion of the State's indebtedness is provided for by revenues coming into the treasury from other sources than direct taxation.

There are now, or will be, before July 1st, 1888, to the credit of the sinking funds, maintained to pay off the three last-mentioned debts, to wit: the Maryland Hospital Loan, the Deaf and Dumb Loan, and the Treasury Relief Loan—amounts equal to such debts. This being the case, the tax amounting to 3 cents on the hundred dollars, heretofore levied to pay the interest on, and establish sinking funds for, these debts, should cease, and the people be relieved from so much of the burden of taxation. We are now paying but $3\frac{65}{100}$ per cent. interest on the Defence Redemption Loan of $3,000,000.00, and but 3 per cent. interest on the Exchange Loan of 1886 of $1,270,474.10. The amount of interest saved on these loans, and the annual increase of revenue from all other sources, will furnish sufficient funds to meet ordinary demands upon the treasury, and warrant the expectation of the people that taxes to the extent of 3 cents on the hundred dollars should cease.

The sterling debt of $4,001,111.11 matures in 1889. There is every reason to believe, judging by past experience, that, in the refunding of this loan, 2 per cent. upon the amount, in annual interest to the State, will be saved; and this saving will afford additional revenue for general State purposes. There is also reason to believe that increased revenue will be derived from a new assessment of property, which has been, perhaps, already too long deferred, and that property worth millions of dollars, which has hitherto escaped taxation, may be required to pay its just portion of the expenses of government.

I recommend a new valuation and assessment of all the property in this State, and trust that you will enact a law for the purpose, which will bring personal property, owned by citizens of this State, as fully within the scope of taxation as is the real estate owned by citizens of this State.

Elections.

Our election laws are made up of statutes passed at different periods since 1804. In that long interval of time the population of the State has greatly increased. The simple rules, which formerly sufficed for the conduct of elections, are now insufficient. Our election laws ought to be completely revised, and made adequate in every particular to every requirement of good government. I am informed that Mr. John P. Poe, appointed two years ago codifier of the laws, will, among other recommendations, authorized under the Act making him codifier, report a new election law. Others, perhaps, may submit to you drafts of laws having the same ends in view. With these aids an election law can be framed and passed, which will be practical in its operations, and provide such safeguards to the ballot-box as will meet the expectations of the people of this State. I suggest that sufficient and even liberal compensation be given to those who will act as supervisors of election in Baltimore City. The duties which they will be required to perform are as important, and perhaps more important, than any devolved upon other officers in this State. The performance of such duties ought to be fully compensated. The Governor ought not to be compelled to ask the acceptance of such offices by competent men, not only as a public duty, but as a favor to himself.

Militia.

The report of Adjutant-General James Howard, is very encouraging to all interested in our State Militia. It must be especially gratifying to the men in this service who have brought zeal and spirit to their voluntary enlistment, and practiced self-denial in the performance of their duties. Since the Act of 1886, making large appropriations for the support of the Militia, providing for biennial encampments and requiring an enlistment of the men for three years, a marked change in the appearance. bearing and discipline of the force

has followed. They are to-day, a strong and proper adjunct to the civil authority. There are now in the service 147 commissioned officers and 1,913 enlisted men. A very large portion of these were encamped at Hagerstown, or Frederick, during the past year, submitting to the rules and discipline of camp life and receiving instruction. None of them have been paid. The Act of 1886, provided that they should be paid for such service, but there was no money available from the appropriation, after deducting the extraordinary expenses of clothing and equipping the men, and paying for their subsistence while in camp. I recommend an appropriation sufficient to pay the per diem of every man who attended camp, as was contemplated by the Act of Assembly. The amount necessary to make such payment is $15,663.06. I further recommend that an annual appropriation of $30,000.00 be made for the support of the State Militia, and that every second year an additional appropriation of $20,000.00 be made for an encampment. You are referred to the report of the Adjutant-General for a detailed statement of the workings of his department, and also for many minor recommendations made by him.

The Baltimore and Ohio Railroad.

The State of Maryland remains the holder of $968,615.70 in the preferred stock of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company, bearing a fixed dividend of six per centum per annum. This stock constitutes part of the $3,000,000 of preferred stock subscribed for by the State under the Act of 1835, chapter 395. The remaining $2,031,384.30 of this preferred stock was exchanged from time to time, years ago, under the authority of article 12, section 3 of the constitution of 1867, for the bonds or registered debt of the State. The State of Maryland is also the owner of $550,000 of the special stock created by the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company for the construction of its Washington

Branch Railroad. The Board of Public Works is authorized by article 12, section 3, of the constitution, to exchange the remainder of the preferred stock, to which reference has been made, for an equal amount of the bonds or registered debt owed by the State in 1867, provided such exchange is made at not less than par, nor for less than the market value of such preferred stock. The Board of Public Works has no power to make any sale or exchange of the $550,000 held by the State in the special stock created for the construction of the Washington Branch Railroad. The remaining investment of the State in the preferred stock, and in the special Washington Branch stock are, and will continue to be, in my judgment, perfectly secure investments. It is the interest of the State to retain these investments, and the representation they give in the direction of that Company. The State aided largely in the construction of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad, but has been a large gainer by the enterprise, not only by the returns which that road has made to our State treasury, but by the increase of wealth and commerce which it has brought to the city of Baltimore, and directly or indirectly to large sections of the State.

Chesapeake and Ohio Canal.

The Chesapeake and Ohio Canal, which was never extended beyond Cumberland, though intended to connect with the Ohio river, has remained, and will most probably remain, an unfinished work. It is not proper to criticise the wisdom of those who originated the enterprise, because we cannot say, with certainty, what the result would have been if the work had been completed according to their plan. It was not reasonable to expect, when only a portion of a work intended as a national highway was finished, that such portion would be a profitable investment. It was, on the contrary, probable, from the time when the work of extending the canal to the Ohio river was abandoned, and its narrow width and shallow depth were adhered to, that

the only return which the State would receive for its expenditure would be the enhancement of the prosperity of the counties through which it passed, and the development of the mining and general industries of the section of the State in which the incomplete work terminated. This return the State has received. The canal has been, and is, a most useful water-way for coal seeking shipment from Cumberland, and for the products of the industry of the people of the State living near, or along its route. It would seem to be wise to maintain it as a water-way.

The canal has had many difficulties to contend with. The repairs, made necessary by repeated freshets, have more than once required expenditures greater than its means, or credit, could supply. In 1878 the State postponed its liens to a mortgage of $500,000, made by the canal company upon the whole work and its revenues, in order to enable the company to raise the money to pay its expenses and to put and keep it in repair. The aid was timely, but the difficulties of the canal and its need of extensive repairs have continued. It is now in default, notwithstanding the careful management of its President and Directors, for two semi-annual payments of interest, amounting in the aggregate to $30,000. If it should be in default for a third semi-annual payment, a majority of the bondholders will have a right to proceed to foreclose the mortgage, securing the $500,000 of bonds. In the event of a sale, the monies invested by the State in the canal would, probably, be wholly lost, and the canal would cease to be under the control of the State.

You cannot, under the provisions of the Constitution of this State, avert the danger of foreclosure by giving or lending in any manner the credit of the State to the canal company. You cannot, constitutionally, prevent foreclosure by making an appropriation for the payment of any part of the interest now in arrear upon the $500,000 bonds, to which I have referred. It is quite certain that if the interest upon these bonds had continued to be paid, the Treasurer of the State, with the

concurrence of the Governor and Comptroller, might have purchased a majority or all of these bonds as an investment for the sinking funds of the State under the plain authority of the Act of 1884, Chap. 383. It will be for you to determine whether, in view of the danger now necessarily threatening the property of the State in the canal and the work itself, you will enact a law authorizing the Treasurer, with the concurrence of the Governor and Comptroller, to avert such danger by purchasing, for the General Sinking Fund, a majority in amount or all of the bonds referred to, if procurable, although such bonds are not now productive.

In connection with such measure, or in any event, it seems to me that a plan ought to be matured for the reorganization of the canal. It is cumbered to-day with an amount of debt and interest in arrear which completely paralyzes it. Provision ought to be made by law for the reorganization of the canal company, with the consent of the State as a creditor and the holder of a majority of its stock, and of the other creditors having an interest in the canal or its revenues, for scaling down all incumbrances on the canal except the $500,000 mortgage debt referred to, and for the relinquishment of interest in arrear upon such incumbrances, so that the amount of the remaining liabilities of the canal shall not exceed the actual present value of the work. This present value ought to be apportioned among and secured to the creditors of the canal with their consent, according to the priority, amount and value of their respective claims upon the canal and its revenues; and proper representation in the management of the canal ought to be accorded to these various interests. In this way the canal may be rehabilitated and its credit so far restored as to enable it to enter upon a new career of usefulness, and to sustain itself in such contingencies as may hereafter occur in its history.

The Susquehanna and Tide-water Canals.

The Susquehanna and Tide-water Canal Companies are now indebted to the State of Maryland in the sum of $1,000,000, in principal, and also for a large amount of interest in arrear.

These canals have always derived a large part of their revenue from connecting railroads and from a different canal system. Railway competition, changes in markets and other causes, have diverted a large part of this traffic from the Susquehanna and Tide-water Canals.

The practical result is, that their value as productive properties has greatly declined. The Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company is the lessee of the Susquehanna Canal, a Pennsylvania work, and the owner of the great majority of the stock in the Tide-water Canal Company. The Board of Public Works has had repeated interviews with the representatives of the Susquehanna and Tide-water Canal Companies, and with the representatives of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company—the lessee of the Susquehanna Canal. The pecuniary embarrassments of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company have protracted these negotiations. The last interview was held in December, 1887. The Board of Public Works preferred, at this late period, to await such action as the General Assembly might prescribe. If you are of the opinion that the Board of Public Works should continue these negotiations, an act, amendatory of the Act of 1886, Chap. 454, ought to be passed, giving the Board of Public Works or a majority of said Board full power to compromise the claim of the State for interest in arrear to January 1st, 1888, under the mortgages to the State made by said companies—to extend, amply, the time for the payment of the principal indebtedness secured by said mortgages—and to reduce the rate of interest on said principal mortgage indebtedness of said companies to the State, after January 1st, 1888, to such percentage as said Board may determine upon.

It is not expedient that the State should enter into possession of these canals under its mortgages, or operate them by a commission or otherwise. It is not desirable that the canals should be sold and their rights of way diverted to other uses. It is best that they should continue in existence as water ways, and that all negotiations of the State with the debtor companies should be influenced by this consideration.

Constitutional Centennial.

On the 15th, 16th and 17th days of September, 1887, there was held in the city of Philadelphia a celebration commemorative of the one hundredth anniversary of the signing and promulgation of the Constitution of the United States.

The plan of this celebration was originated in September, 1886, by the Governors of the thirteen original States. It was national in character and appealed to the traditions and patriotism of our people. Nearly all the State Legislatures made liberal appropriations for the proper representation of their States at this centennial. Our Legislature had not convened, and there was no fund out of which the expenses, incident to the State's participation therein, could be defrayed. At the suggestion of some of our public-spirited and liberal citizens, I made public proclamation of the condition of affairs, and appealed to private citizens to advance or guarantee the necessary funds to enable the troops of Maryland to appear in Philadelphia on the 16th day of September and participate in the military parade. While I did not guarantee the return of any money which might be advanced, I gave assurance of my belief that the Legislature would make an appropriation for its payment. Through the earnest efforts of General Clinton P. Paine, Commissioner from this State to the centennial, aided and encouraged by a number of our citizens, the necessary money was procured and the troops of Maryland, well equipped and uniformed, carried 1,400 muskets in a parade that will be hereafter remembered as a notable pageant, worthy of the one

hundredth anniversary of the adoption of our Federal Constitution. Having been impressed with the necessity of a proper representation of the State on such an occasion, and grateful to the liberality of the citizens alluded to, I earnestly recommend an appropriation of $5,000, the amount which is required to indemnify those citizens for the use of their names as security for the expenses incurred.

Maryland Penitentiary.

Two more years of faithful and strict business management entitle the Maryland Penitentiary to a continuance of its past reputation as a well-governed prison, and entitle the directors of the institution to the thanks of the State. It is still self-sustaining, and has paid a small surplus into the State treasury. New difficulties, however, threaten the future. Antagonism to the products of prison labor has induced some contractors to cancel contracts, or to abstain from renewing contracts about to expire. Should the contract system for prison labor be entirely abolished in this State, the principal source of the revenues of the penitentiary will disappear and a tax or appropriation approximating $70,000 per annum must be laid or made by the State to support it. When it is considered that all products of convict labor in the United States do not exceed one-half of one per cent. of the articles manufactured in this country, it will be seen that the abandonment of the system of contract labor in prisons, because of its competition with honest labor, would produce no appreciable effect upon the wages of honest labor. The labor of convicts relieves the tedium of the lives of the wretched inmates. It teaches them habits of useful employment. It is essential to their morals and health. It prevents insanity and many crimes incident to idleness and isolated lives. The abandonment of the system means further taxation of a burdened landed interest. As our duty to the State and to the prisoners would seem to require that prisoners should defray the cost of their keeping

and acquire good habits, I think that the system of prison labor ought to be maintained. The abandonment by the Davis Shoe Company, on March 1, 1887, of their contract with the directors of the penitentiary threw many of the prisoners out of employment until the middle of October following. The loss of revenue from this source crippled the finances of the prison. It is suggested by the Board of Directors that a contingent appropriation of $20,000 be made by the State to meet possible deficiency in the receipts of the prison and to maintain it in the future; the appropriation to be used only in case of emergency, and not while any moneys are available from other sources. In view of possible difficulties growing out of the contract system, and the wisdom of the precautionary measure recommended by the board of penitentiary directors, I believe you should favorably act upon their suggestions, and I recommend them to your consideration. The health of the prisoners for the past year has been exceptionally good, although the number confined has been larger than in any year since 1880; the average being 581. The directors call attention to the defective manner in which the prison is lighted and heated. As the revenues are uncertain for the future, humanity requires that facilities for proper light and heat ought to be afforded, enabling the convicts to employ their time while confined in their cells, by reading or otherwise, until the hour prescribed for retiring.

House of Correction.

During the past year this institution has received 320 prisoners, with an average during the year of 190, at an annual cost per capita of $117.05. The last Legislature increased the appropriations for this institution from $25,000.00 to $30,000.00. Old debts having been paid, good management demonstrates that this institution can be maintained with an appropriation of $25,000.00, and such profits as are derived from the State farm, now much improved and de-

veloped, and annually yielding increasing revenues. After allowing for a substantial barn, erected during the past year at a cost of $2,750.00, and taking no account of the produce of the farm, which furnishes the vegetable portion of the diet of the officers and men, the last appropriation has not been exhausted. I believe that the existence of surplus funds leads at times to extravagance. No more money than is demanded by the legitimate needs of the institution, economically managed, should be appropriated. I would again call your attention to the fact that mere boys are sent to this prison. It is no place for the confinement of youths, and yet the hardened and depraved minor criminals are sent there. This evil should be corrected. It is in no sense a reformatory institution, but a prison, punitive and rigid in its rules and regulations, though by no means cruel or unkind. It also seems to be regarded by some as a hospital, and many insane and imbecile persons are sent there by magistrates. They are, in my opinion, sometimes sent thither from the counties to this prison, in order that the counties may be relieved from paying the cost of confining such unfortunates in hospitals. On this subject also legislation is needed. I believe the institution is well managed, that all its officers take an interest in its welfare, and attentively and properly perform their duties.

Oysters.

The report of Commander Plowman to the Board of Public Works shows a prosperous condition of the oyster trade, and gives statistical information as to the number of men directly engaged in the catching of oysters, to wit, dredging, scraping and tonging, and gives information of the magnitude and importance of this industry. The present oyster law, passed at the session of 1886, seems to be generally acceptable to a large majority of those engaged in the business. I am sorry, however, to report that the revenues issuing from oyster licenses and fines for violations of

law, coming into the State treasury, are inadequate to the expenses of the oyster police force and the protection of the oyster beds of the State. The present law requires the keeping of three steamers and eleven vessels on constant duty, with 101 men in the service of the State. The revenues for the past fiscal year amounted to $54,961.78, while the expenses of the force and other costs attending the management of our system amounted to $67,221.88. The commander has been especially active in looking to the details of his department, and his work has been done as cheaply, and his purchases made as advantageously, as any individual employer would demand. The oyster law should be so amended as to reduce the cost of maintaining the force, or to increase the revenues which it affords sufficiently to maintain from this source the cost of the protection of our oyster interests. Violations of the oyster law are constantly occurring. The violators are becoming more bold, and at times act as if they were buccaneers or pirates. The State force has been resisted and fired upon, and once or twice driven from their beats. Severe penalties should follow resistance to the authorities of the State. The carrying of repeating rifles upon oyster boats should be *prima facie* evidence of intent to resist the authorities on the part of those violating the law. Cannon should be provided for all State steamers and sloops, and authority to use such weapons should be conferred upon the officers. New and larger sloops are needed to guard Chester river and Herring bay. Great frauds have been perpetrated in the measurement of oysters. The inspectors should be authorized to confiscate all illegal tubs found in the possession of buyers or other dealers in oysters, and be required by law to break up and destroy the unlawful measures.

Fish.

In view of the fact that the United States Government is devoting attention and money to the propagation of fish, I recommend that no further appropria-

tion for fish culture be made from the State treasury, and that the office of Fish Commissioner be abolished. In making this recommendation I mean no reflection upon the efficiency and fitness of the present Fish Commissioners, but the results do not justify a continuance of the expensive experiment.

Mining.

The troubles of a few years ago in the mining regions of this State have ceased to exist. All difficulties between the coal companies and their employees have been satisfactorily adjusted. The yield from the George's Creek coal field will, this year, be in round numbers—3,000,000 tons. This is in excess of the production of any former year by 327,000 tons. It means an outlay for labor and transportation within our State of seven millions of dollars, and a return of over six hundred dollars, per capita, to each miner. No other coal fields in this country can make such a showing. I believe the labor of Mr. C. H. Hamill, Mine Inspector, has been constant in the cultivation of friendly relations and mutual concessions between the companies and employees, and it is proper that I should make this statement as a testimonial to his faithful services. In this state of affairs it is to be hoped that no new questions will arise to interfere with the present prosperity of the mining regions.

The Public Health.

Every precautionary measure possible has been taken by the State Board of Health to prevent diseases from securing a foot-hold in the State, and as a result of its vigilant and systematic work we have had an unexampled exemption from diseases of all kinds.

The seventh biennial report of the secretary of the board, will exhibit the work which has been accomplished during the two years ending December 31, 1887. A number of valuable suggestions and recommendations are submitted for the consideration of the Legis-

lature. The first relates to the necessity of an efficient registration of all births and deaths occurring in the State. The registration of vital and mortuary statistics has become one of the necessities of civilized communities.

In connection with the subject of Vital Registration the report recommends to the Legislature the importance of obtaining correct returns of the nature and extent of the sickness which prevails among various classes of our artisan and laboring population: facts which it is desirable to know, since it has been demonstrated that these classes of our population, more than any other, sustain unnecessary injury to their health for want of precautionary measures.

One of the most important recommendations is in reference to the sale of adulterated and unwholesome articles of food, especially adulterated milk and diseased meats, and the power of the State is invoked to prevent the adulteration of the one or the sale of the other. The worst effect of adulterated milk is to be found among young children, who feed so largely on this diet: and there can be no doubt that the flesh of animals, more or less diseased, is constantly sold in our markets. Most of the States have laws to protect the people from such evils, but with us no effort has been made to discover the extent to which adulterations have been practiced. Proper inspections will alone protect communities against such evils.

Reference is made on page 44 of the Secretary's report to the inefficiency of the existing law for the inspection of illuminating oils, and to the large number of serious accidents—deaths and fires—which annually occur from the use of such oils as emit a combustible vapor at the temperature of 120° Fahr. The Legislature is asked to so amend the law as to require a *flash* test, in an open cup, at from 125° to 130° Fahr., instead of the present *fire* test of only 110° Fahr. This amendment is regarded as an indispensable provision against loss of life and property from coal-oil explosions.

Attention is called in the report to the necessity for a law to regulate the practice of medicine in the State. Many of the States of the Union, notably those adjoining Maryland, have enacted the most stringent laws in this respect. These have had the effect of driving unfit professional men into this State. The propriety of enacting salutary laws for the regulation of the practice of medicine cannot be gainsaid.

The inefficiency and pollution of the water supplies of some of the cities and towns of the State is fully discussed in the report, and the necessity of every community being supplied with an abundance of pure and wholesome water, is urged as a health measure of the first importance. The value of this suggestion must be obvious to every one who has given any thought to the subject. Periodical pestilence often arises from a deficient or impure water supply, and fires can be checked only by sufficient supplies of water. The report, as a whole, is a valuable text-book, and I recommend the printing of 2,500 copies for distribution among the people.

Live Stock.

The report of the State Live Stock Sanitary Board gives full information as to the progress and work done in the suppression of contagious diseases among cattle within this State. With the co-operation of the general government, under rules and regulations adopted by the Commissioner of Agriculture and assented to by me, as the Executive of the State, the expense of eradicating these diseases has in the main been met and paid by the government, and much effective and practical good has been accomplished. For information upon this subject I refer you to the report itself.

Conclusion.

No reports have been received from several departments of the State Government in time to permit their examination by me, or recommendations in relation

to them to be made to you. I am not aware of any very pressing or important suggestions to be made in connection with any of these reports. Knowing, however, that if such should come to your knowledge, your intelligence and sense of duty will ensure such consideration and action as they may deserve, I am content to pass them by.

I may be excused, I hope, in conclusion, in alluding in this my last message, to myself. Called to the high office of Governor at an earlier age than most of my predecessors, possessing only a limited knowledge of men in the State, and little experience in financial and political affairs, a sense of my responsibility has weighed heavily upon me. I have had, upon more than one occasion, to seek the counsel and advice of others upon whose judgment I could with safety rely. To them I offer the thanks of a grateful heart.

The record of what I have done is before the people of the State. They must judge me. The outcome of the troubles in the mining regions, the prosperity of the oyster trade, the excellent condition of the finances of the State, the high credit of its securities, your ability to reduce taxation, are all matters of just pride to me.

While I cannot take any special credit to myself for these happy results, it is nevertheless gratifying to know that these circumstances exist when I surrender the trust confided to me. I must also, before retiring from office, bear earnest testimony to the courtesy, consideration and good will of all the public officials with whom I have associated. Their aid and friendly advice has always been given freely to me.

HENRY LLOYD.

ANNAPOLIS, *Tuesday, January* 3, 1888.